Henry VIII., King of England.

THE HISTORY OF THE King and Cobler.

PART the FIRST.

Printed for the Travelling Stationers.

The FIRST PART of the *KING and COBLER.*

CHAP. I.

Of the King's first becoming acquainted with the Cobler, his inviting him to Court, &c.

IN the Reign of King Henry the VIIIth there lived a merry Cobler who was up at work early and late, who the King in his Rounds uſed to take Notice of, when he went to ſee whether the Watch was upon Duty, to prevent thoſe dangers and caſualties which often happen to great and populous cities in the night time. This he did often-times, without the leaſt Diſcovery who he was:

was: Returning home to Whitehall early in the morning, through the Strand, he took notice of this cobler, who was at work whiſtling and ſinging; therefore he reſolves to ſee him, in order to which he immediately knocks off the heel of his Shoe, by hitting it againſt the ſtones.—Having ſo done, he bounced againſt the Cobler's ſtall. Who's there? cries the Cobler.—Here's one, ſaid the King.—With that he opened his ſtall door, and the king aſked him if he could ſet on his heel.—Yes that I can, ſaid the Cobler; come ſit thee down, and I will do it ſtrait.—The Cobler laid his awls and old ſhoes aſide to make room for the King to ſit by him, who was hardly able to forbear laughing at the Cobler's kindneſs; and aſked him if there was not a Houſe near, where they ſold a Cup of good Ale, and the People up. Yes, ſaid the Cobler, there is an Inn over the way, where I think the folks are up, for the carriers go from thence early every Morning.—With that the King borrowed an old ſhoe of the Cobler, and went over to the Inn, deſiring him to bring his ſhoe over thi-

ther

ther, when he had done it.—The Cobler promiſed him that he would.—So making as much haſte as he could, he carried it over to the King, ſaying honeſt blacle, here is thy ſhoe again, I'll warrant thee it will not come off again in haſte. Verry well, ſaid the King, what muſt you have for your pāins? A couple of pence, ſaid the Cobler. Well, ſaid the King, as thou art an honeſt merry fellow, here is a teſter for you.——Come, ſit down by me, and I'll drink to you.—Come, here is a good health to the King.———With all my heart, ſaid the Cobler, I will pledge thee were it in water. So the Cobler ſat down by the King, was very merry, and drank of his Liquor freely. He alſo ſung ſeveral of his merry ſongs and catches, at which the King laughed heartily, and was very pleaſant and jocund with the Cobler, telling him withal that his name was Harry Tudor, and that he belonged to the court; and if he would come and ſee him there he would make him very welcome, becauſe he was ſuch a merry Companion; and charged him to come and not forget his name, and

to

to aſk any one for him about the court, as they would bring him to him; for, ſaid the King, I am very well known there.———Now the Cobler little dreamed that it was the King that ſpoke to him, much leſs that the King's name was Harry Tudor. Then with a great deal of confidence, he ſtands up and pulls off his hat, and gave the King many thanks; telling him he was one of the honeſteſt fellows he had ever met with in his life-time: And though he had never been at court, yet it ſhould not be long before he made holiday to come and ſee him. Whereupon, the King diſcharging the Reckoning for what he had had, and would have taken leave of the Cobler; but, he taking him by the hand, ſaid, by my troth, you ſhall not go yet, you ſhall firſt go and ſee my habitation; I have there a tub of good brown ale never tapped yet; and you muſt needs go taſte it; for thou art the honeſteſt blade I ever met with; and I love an honeſt merry Companion with all my heart.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The Cobler entertaines the King in his Cellar and of the Diſturbance made by the Cobler's Wife.

SO the Cobler took the King with him over the way, where he had a Cellar joining to his ſtall, which was handſomely furniſhed for a Man of his Profeſſion; into this Cellar he had the King. There, ſaid he, ſit you down, you are welcome, but I muſt deſire you to ſpeak ſoftly, for fear of 'waking my wife Joan, who lies hard by (ſhewing the King a cloſe bed, neatly made up in one corner of the Celler, much like a Cloſet) for if ſhe 'wakes, ſhe will certainly make both our Ears ring again.—At this Speech of the Cobler's the King laughed, and told him he would be mindful to follow his Directions.—So the Cobler kindled a fire, and fetched out a brown loaf, from which he cuts a luſty ſlice, and ſets it baking

ing at the fire; then he brought out his Cheſhire cheeſe.—Come, ſaid he, will you eat any cheeſe? there is as good fellowſhip in eating as in drinking. This made the King admire the freedom of the Cobler. So having eaten a Piece, Here's a

health to all true hearts and merry companions, ſaid the Cobler; at which the King ſmiling, ſaid, God have mercy, old friend, I'll pledge thee. In this manner they eat and drank together till almoſt break of Day. The Cobler being very free with his liquor, and delighting the King with ſeveral of his old ſtories, inſomuch that he was highly pleaſed with the manner of the Cobler's entertainment, but

but on a ſudden the Cobler's old wife Joan began to 'wake.——In faith ſaid the Cobler, you muſt be gone now, my wife Joan begins to grumble, ſhe will 'wake preſently, and I would not for one half the ſhoes in my ſhop ſhe ſhould find you here. So taking the King up ſtairs, he ſaid, farewell honeſt blade, it ſhall not be long before I make a holiday to come and ſee thee at court.—The King replied, you ſhall be kindly welcome.——So they parted, the King on his way to Whitehall, and the Cobler to his Cellar, putting all things to right before his wife Joan got up, and went to work again, whiſtling and ſinging as merry as he uſed to do; being much ſatisfied that he had happened on ſuch a good Companion, and very much delighted in his thoughts how merry he ſhould be when he came to Court.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

The Cobler's Preparation to go to Court, and the Pains his Wife took to ſet him off to the beſt Advantage.

NOW as ſoon as the King came home, he ſent his orders about the court, that if any one enquired for him by the name of Harry Tudor, the perſon ſhould be immediately brought before him without further examination. Now the Cobler thought every day a month till he had been at court to ſee his new acquaintance, and he was much troubled how he might get leave of his wife Joan, for he could not go without her knowledge, by reaſon he reſolved to make himſelf as fine as he could, and his wife Joan always kept his holiday cloaths; ſo one evening as they ſat at ſupper, ſhe being in a good humour, he began to lay open his mind to her, and ſhewed her the manner of the acquaintance, repeating it over and over again, that he was indeed the moſt honeſt man that he had ever

ever met with. Huſband, ſaid ſhe, becauſe you have been ſo generous to tell the truth. I will give you leave to make a holiday: You ſhall go to court, and as fine as I can make you. So it was agreed that he might go the next day; whereupon joan aroſe betime the next morning to bruſh her huſband's cloaths, and to make him as ſnug as might be, ſhe waſh-

ed and ironed the laced band, and made his ſhoes to ſhine ſo, that he might ſee his face in them. Having done this, ſhe made

made her husband rise, and put off his shirt, then she also washed him with water, and put on a clean one. Afterwards she dressed him in his best cloaths, and pinned his laced band in prim.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

The Cobler's Reception at the Court, with the Manner of his Behaviour before the King.

THE Cobler being thus equipped, ſtrutted through the ſtreets like a crow in a gutter, thinking himſelf as fine as the beſt of them all. In this manner he came to court, ſtaring on this body and on that body, as he walked up and down, and knowing no one to aſk for, except Harry Tudor, at laſt he eſpied one, as he thought in the habit of a ſervant man; to him he made his addreſſes, ſaying, do you hear honeſt fellow, do you know one Harry Tudor, who belongs to the court? Yes, ſaid the man, follow me, and I will bring you to him. With that he preſently took him up into the guard-chamber, telling one of the yeomen of the guard, there was one enquired for Harry Tudor. The yeoman replied, I know him very well, and if you pleaſe to go along with me, I will

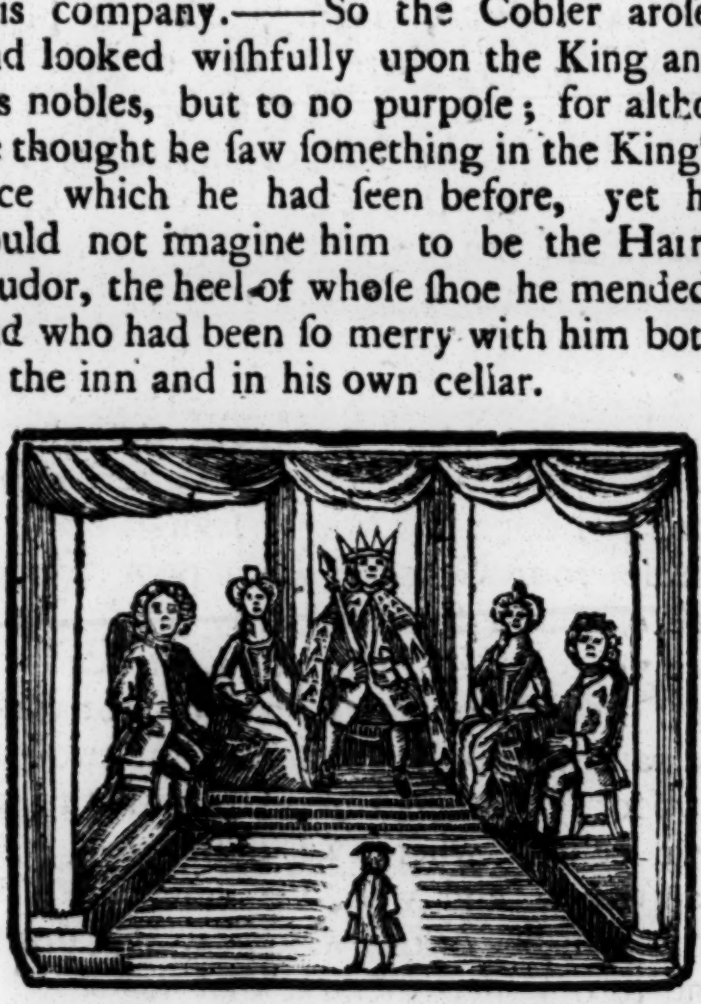
will bring you to him immediately. The Cobler followed the yeoman, admiring the finery of the rooms he went through, and thinking within himſelf the yeoman was not unlike the the perſon he enquired after: Him whom I look after, ſaid he, is a plain, merry and honeſt fellow; his name is Harry Tudor, we drank ſeveral pots together not long ſince; I ſuppoſe he may be ſome fine lord or other about the court. I tell you friend, replied the yeoman, I do know him very well; do but follow me, and I will bring you to him ſtrait.——So going forward, he came

to the room where the King was accompanied with many of his nobles. As ſoon

ſoon as the yeoman had put by the arras, he ſpake aloud, ſaying, May it pleaſe your Majeſty, here is one enquires for Harry Tudor.——The Cobler hearing this, thought he had committed no leſs than treaſon, therefore he up with his heels, and ran away for it. But not being acquainted with the ſeveral turnings and rooms through which he came, he was ſoon overtaken and brought before the King, whom the Cobler thought to be the Perſon he enquired after, therefore fell upon his knees, ſaying, May it pleaſe your Grace, I am a poor Cobler, and enquired for one Harry Tudor, who is a very honeſt fellow; I mended the heel of his ſhoe not long ago, for which he paid me nobly, and gave me two pots to boot; but I had him afterwards to my own cellar, where we drank a cup of nappy ale, and were very merry till my wife joan began to 'wake, which put an end to our merriment at that time. But I told him that I ſurely would be at court to ſee him as ſoon as I conveniently could.———Well, ſaid the King, riſe up and be not afraid; look well about you,

per-

peradventure you may find the fellow in this company.——So the Cobler aroſe, and looked wiſhfully upon the King and his nobles, but to no purpoſe; for altho' he thought he ſaw ſomething in the King's face which he had ſeen before, yet he could not imagine him to be the Harry Tudor, the heel of whoſe ſhoe he mended, and who had been ſo merry with him both at the inn and in his own cellar.



Therefore he told the King he did not expect to find Harry Tudor amongſt ſuch fine folks as he ſaw there; but the perſon that he looked for was a plain, honeſt, truc-

true-hearted fellow; adding withal, that he was ſure if Harry Tudor did but know that he was come to court, he would make him welcome.——At which ſpeech of the Cobler the King had much ado to forfear laughing out-right; but keeping his countenance as well as he could, he ſaid to the yeomen of the guard, here, take this honeſt Cobler down into the cellar, and let him drink my health; I will order that Harry Tudor ſhall come to him preſently. So away he went, ready to leap out of his ſkin for joy, not only that he was got clear off, but alſo that he ſhould find his friend Harry Tudor.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The Cobler's Entertainment in the King's Cellar, where he meets with his old Friend Harry Tudor, and his diſcovering him to be the King.

THE Cobler had not been long in the cellar before the King came to him in the ſame habit he had on when the Cobler mended his ſhoe, whereupon the Cobler knew him, and ran and kiſſed him, ſaying, honeſt Harry, I have made an holiday on purpoſe to come and ſee thee; but I had much ado to get leave of my wife Joan, who was loath I ſhould loſe ſo much time from my work; but I was reſolved to ſee you, therefore I made myſelf as fine as I could.——But I'll tell you Harry, when I came to the court, I was in a peck of troubles how to find you out, but at laſt I met with a man, who told me he knew you very well, and that he would bring me to you. —But inſtead of doing ſo, he brought me before the King, which had almoſt frighted me to death.——But in good faith,

faith, continues the Cobler, I am reſolved to be merry with you, ſince I have the good fortune to meet with you at laſt.—Aye, ſo you ſhall, replied the King, we will be as merry as Princes.—With that he called for a large glaſs of wine, and drank to the Cobler the King's good health.—God have mercy, ſays the Cobler, honeſt Harry, I will pledge thee

with all my heart.—Now after the Cobler had drank about four or five good healths, he began to be merry, and fell to ſinging his old Songs and Catches, the which pleaſed

pleaſed the King very much, and made him laugh moſt heartily; when on a ſudden many of the Nobles came into the cellar, extraordinary rich in apparel, who ſtood bare to Harry Tudor, which put the Cobler in great amazement at the firſt, but recovering himſelf ſoon, he looked more earneſtly upon Harry Tudor, he preſently knew him to be the King that he had ſeen in the preſence-chamber.—— He therefore fell upon his knees, ſaying, May it pleaſe your highneſs, I am an honeſt Cobler, and mean none no harm. —No, no, ſaid the King, nor ſhall receive any here.——He commanded him therefore to riſe up and be as merry as he was before; and though he knew him to be the King, yet he ſhould uſe the ſame freedom with him as he did when he mended his ſhoe.—This kind ſpeech of the King, and three or four glaſſes of wine more, made the Cobler be in as good humour as he was before, telling the King ſeveral of his pretty ſtories, and ſinging more ſongs, very much to the ſatisfaction of the King and his Nobles.

THE

THE COBLER's SONG IN THE KING's CELLAR.

Tune—JENNY GIN.

COME let us drink the other pot,
Our ſorrows to confound,
We'll laugh and ſing before the King,
So let his health go round.

For I'm as bold as bold may be,
No Cobler e'er was ruder;
So then good fellow here's to thee,
Rememb'ring Harry Tudor.

When I'm at work within my ſtall,
Upon him I oft' ſhall think;
His kindneſs I to mind will call,
Whenever I eat or drink.

His

His kindneſs to me was ſo great,
The like was never known,
His kindneſs I will ſtill repeat,
And ſo ſhall my wife Joan.

I'll laugh when I ſit in my ſtall,
And merrily will ſing,
That I with my poor laſt and awl,
Am fellow with the King.

But it is more, I muſt confeſs,
Than I at firſt did know;
But Harry Tudor ne'ertheleſs,
Reſolves it muſt be ſo.

And now farewell unto Whitehall,
I homewards muſt retire:
To whiſtle and ſing within my ſtall,
My Joan will me require.

I can't but think how ſhe will laugh
When ſhe hears of this thing,
How he that drank her nut-brown ale,
Was England's royal King.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Cobler's becoming a Courtier.

NOW the King conſidering the pleaſant humours of the Cobler, how innocently merry he was, and free from any deſigns; and that he was a Perſon that laboured very hard, and took a great deal of pains for a ſmall livelihood, was pleaſed out of his princely grace and favour, to allot him a liberal unity of forty marks a year, for the better ſupport of his jolly humours, and the maintenance of himſelf and his wife Joan; and that he ſhould be admitted one of the courtiers, and have the freedom of his cellar whenever he pleaſed.

This being ſo much beyond his expectation, highly elevated the Cobler's humours, much to the ſatisfaction of the King.——So after ſome bows and ſcrapes he returned home to his wife Joan, with the joyful news of his kind reception at court, which ſo pleaſed her, that ſhe did not think much of the pains ſhe had been at in tricking him up for his journey.

END of the FIRST PART.

At J. DREWRY's SHOP

In the *Irongate* DERBY,

MAY BE HAD,

Great Variety of New and Old Songs, and a choice Assortment of Penny Hiſtories, amongſt which are the following, viz.

ART of Courtſhip.—Academy of Compliments.—Argalus and Parthenia.—A New Riddle Book.—Black Book of Conſcience.—Children in the Wood.—Cookery Book.—Capt. James Hind. the Robber of England.—Card Fortune Book.—Doctor Fauſtus.—Egyptian Fortune-Teller.—Fair Roſamond.—Friar Bacon, 2 Parts.—Guy, Earl of Warwick.—Golden Chain of Four Links.—Groatſworth of Wit.—Honeſt John and Loving Kate, 2 Parts.—Jack and the Giants, 2 Parts.—Jack Horner.—Judas Iſcariot.—Lancaſhire Witches.—London 'Prentice.—Moll Flanders.—Merry Piper, or Friar and Boy, 2 Parts.—Mother Shipton.—Mother Bunch, 2 Parts.—Parents Beſt Gift.—Robin Hood's Tales.—Robinſon Cruſoe.—Sir Richard Whittington and his Cat.—Seven Champions, 2 Parts.—St. George and the Dragon.—Sleeping Beauty.—Shipwreck of the Nottingham Galley.—Tom Hickathrift, 2 Parts.—Tom Thumb, 3 Parts.—Valentine and Orſon.—Witch of the Woodlands; &c. &c.